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Architect Selected for New Santa Clara Family Justice Center

San Francisco—The architecture firm of Zimmer Gunsul Frasca LLP has been selected to design the new Family Justice Center, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has announced. The proposed project will provide a new 20-courtroom courthouse, replacing six leased facilities and consolidating all family-related services, including Family Court, Juvenile Dependency, and Drug Court, into a single facility.

This project, with an estimated total cost of \$184.1 million, was ranked as a “Critical Need” in the judicial branch’s capital-outlay plan and is among the judicial branch’s highest-priority infrastructure projects. The dispersal of family law matters among undersized and overcrowded buildings creates administrative and operational inefficiencies and challenges for members of the public who must access associated services. Many are required to travel between locations to complete their transactions and to go long distances to gain access to treatment and drug-testing services.

“We are very pleased with the selection of architecture firm Zimmer Gunsul Frasca, with its strong expertise in designing courthouses as well as institutions dedicated to children,” said Presiding Judge Jamie A. Jacobs-May, Superior Court of Santa Clara County. “This project is not only critically needed by our court, but it will be an important addition to Santa Clara County’s civic community and an infrastructure effort that will provide economic benefits for years to come. Their expertise will help us ensure that our new courthouse meets the needs of families and children.”

The new Family Justice Center project is currently in site acquisition. The County plans to donate the proposed site, located across the street from the San Jose Downtown Superior Court on the block bounded by North 1st Street, West St. James Street, North Market Street and Devine Street. Architectural design must wait until site acquisition is approved by the State Public Works Board. The project is scheduled for completion in fall 2013.

Portland-based Zimmer Gunsul Frasca, in business for more than 60 years, has had a California presence for over a decade and has designed numerous buildings here, including government offices, university buildings, and healthcare facilities. The award-winning Ronald Reagan Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Santa Ana is one of the firm's signature projects. The firm brings extensive experience in both sustainable design and master planning to the project.

The new courthouse is among the first of 41 projects to be funded by Senate Bill 1407, which finances critically needed courthouse construction, renovation, and repair through a portion of

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judicial branch fees, fines, and penalties. More information about the project is at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_santaclara.htm

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